Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1 and 25, all as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:

a data structure stored in said storage medium, wherein the data structure is stored in a content repository that is logically part of a virtual content repository (VCR), the data structure including or referring to:

a name;

a content repository identifier;

a property;

a schema including a property definition defining the property, wherein the schema is inheritable by a child data structure in the VCR to define a property of the child data structure;

a path that uniquely specifies the data structure's location in the VCR; and

a reference to a parent data structure in the VCR that enables traversal of the VCR;

wherein the VCR logically represents, using an application program interface (API), a plurality of content repositories, including the content repository, ~~logically~~ as a single content repository encompassing the plurality of content repositories from the application program's standpoint;

~~wherein the plurality of content repositories plug into the VCR via a service provider interface (SPI);~~

wherein each content repository in the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) including a set of interfaces and services to plug the plurality of content repositories into the VCR; and

wherein the API and the SPI share a content model that represents content of the plurality of content repositories as a hierarchical namespace of nodes[[;]].

~~wherein the path uniquely specifies the data structure's location in the VCR; and~~

~~wherein the reference to a parent data structure in the VCR enables traversal of the VCR.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 1 wherein the content repository identifier comprises:

a repository name; and

a content identifier that is unique for one of the plurality of content repositories.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 1 wherein:
a property is an association between a name and at least one value; and
wherein the at least one value can be stored in one of the plurality of content repositories.

5. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 4 wherein:
the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual presentation, or binary data.

6. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 1 wherein:
the property definition can specify at least one of the following for the property:
property choices;
a reference;
a data type;
whether the property is mandatory;
whether the property is multi-valued;
whether the property is primary;
whether the property is read-only; and
whether the property is restricted.

7. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 1 wherein:
the data structure is hierarchically related to other data structures and the plurality of content repositories.

8. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 7 wherein:
the data structure is hierarchically inferior to the plurality of content repositories.

9-24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:

a first object stored in the medium to provide a first group of services related to interacting with a hierarchical namespace;

a second object stored in the medium to provide a second group of services related to associating information with the first object;

a third object stored in the medium to provide a third group of services related to describing attributes of the second object, wherein the third group of services include a schema that is inheritable by a child object that provides a group of services related to describing attributes of an object related to the child object;

wherein the first object is logically part of a virtual content repository (VCR) and includes a reference to a parent object in the VCR that enables traversal of the VCR and a path that uniquely specifies the first object's location in the VCR, and wherein the VCR represents, using an application program interface (API), a plurality of content repositories logically as a single content repository encompassing the plurality of content repositories from the application program's standpoint;

~~wherein the plurality of content repositories plug into the VCR via a service provider interface (SPI);~~

wherein each content repository in the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) including a set of interfaces and services to plug the plurality of content repositories into the VCR; and

wherein the API and the SPI share a content model that represents content of the plurality of content repositories as a hierarchical namespace of nodes, ~~; and~~

~~wherein the reference to a parent object in the VCR enables traversal of the VCR.~~

26. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25 wherein the first group of services comprises:

first functions that enable associating the first object with a location in the namespace.

27. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25 wherein the second group of services comprises:

second functions that enable creating, reading, updating and deleting the information.

28. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25 wherein the third group of services comprises:

third functions that enable specifying at least one of the following for the second object:

information choices;

a reference;

an information type;

whether the information is mandatory;

whether the information is multi-valued;

whether the information is primary;

whether the information is read-only; and

whether the information is restricted.

29. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25 further comprising:
a fourth object to specify a location of the first object in the namespace.

30. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 29 wherein the fourth object includes:

a content repository name; and

a content identifier that is unique for one of the plurality of content repositories.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25, further comprising:
a fifth object to provide a fifth set of services related to searching the VCR.

33. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25 wherein:
the second object associates a name and at least one value; and
wherein the at least one value can be stored in one of the plurality of content repositories.

34. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 33 wherein:
the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual presentation, or binary data.

35. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25 wherein:
the first object is hierarchically related to other objects and the plurality of content repositories.

36. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25 wherein:
there is no second object.

37. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 25, further comprising:
a sixth object to provide a sixth group of services related to configuring the VCR.

38-50. (Canceled)